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ACTION / DISTR							
	CJCS	J-6	MCEB	PA	H&E	CIA	NSA
	DJS	NMCC	USRMCLO	DDRE	ASD:PA&E	CSA	RF:MCB
	SJCS	NMCCDDO	SECDEF	ARPA	DTACCS	CNO	FILE (1)
	J-1	JRC	ADM	COMP	WSEG	CSAF	
	J-3	NWSB	ISA	LA	W/H	CMC	
	J-4		I/L	AE	STATE	NSC	
	J-5	SAGA	G/C	M/RA	DIA	NIC	TOTAL

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RUEKJCS 81867

ACTION

:DIA(15)

DISTR

CJCS(04) DJS(03) J3(14) J5(02) NMCC SECDEF(07) ASD:ISA(10)

DIA: CMC(01)

CSAF WASH DC

CNO WASH DC

CSA WASH DC

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SECSTATE WASH DC

WHITE HOUSE WASH DC

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FILE(1)

(057)

~~NOFORN~~

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TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L/WHINTEL/NOFORN~~ FEB 77

SUBJ: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. ARGENTINA (AR)

2. (b)(3):10 USC 424

3. (U) POLITICAL-MILITARY: HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS MAY BE INVITED TO ARGENTINA

4. N/A

5. 770204

6. 770207

7. 770204, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

8. (b)(3):10 USC 424

9. B-2

10. (b)(3):10 USC 424 (b)(3):10 USC 424

11. NO

12. & 13.

14. A. B.

15. DIRC: NO - ~~NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVERNMENT~~.

16. SUMMARY 1. ~~(C)~~ ACCORDING TO SOURCE A, AN

RECEIVED OS-40 FEB 10 11 55 AM '77

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J-5	SAGA	G/C	M/RA	DIA	NIC	TOTAL

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INFLUENTIAL MILITARY OFFICER WHO WORKS IN THE PRESIDENCY, PRESIDENT VIDELA HAS BEEN CONSIDERING THE ADVISEABILITY OF INVITING THE NEW U.S. ASST SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS TO VISIT ARGENTINA. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WOULD BE TO LET THE NEW ASST SECRETARY "SEE FOR HIMSELF" EXACTLY WHAT SITUATION EXISTS IN ARGENTINA, ESPE= CIALLY WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, SOURCE ADMITTE
ADMITTED THAT THE TIMING OF SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT, BUT WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT ALL DOORS WOULD BE OPENED AND ALL QUESTIONS ANSWERED HONESTLY AND AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE.

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2. ~~(C)~~ EARLIER ON SAME DAY IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT GROUP, SOURCE B, A SENIOR OFFICER IN THE ARMY GENERAL HQ, [redacted] THE GOA WAS CONSIDERING A PLAN "TO INVITE HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS OF THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION "TO VISIT ARGENTINA. THESE OFFICIALS (SOURCE USED PLURAL BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH OFFICIALS) WOULD BE PROVIDED A RELATIVELY UNSTRUCTURED SCHEDULE PERMITTING THEM A MAXIMUM OF FLEXIBILITY TO SEE WHATEVER THEY WANT TO SEE "ALMOST AS IF THEY WERE TOURISTS".

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3. ~~(C)~~ SOURCE A ALSO REASSURED [redacted] THAT GOA UNDERSTANDS THE PRESSURES WHICH EXIST IN THE USG WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, TO INCLUDE THE HEAVY EMPHASIS GIVEN THE SUBJECT BY THE NEW ADMINIS= TRATION AND THE INTERNAL PRESSURES BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS = EVEN IF SANCTIONS SHOULD BE APPLIED BY THE CONGRESS = THE GOA WOULD CONTINUE TO REACT IN A MATURE MANNER SINCE A DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH THE US IS NOT IN THEIR INTEREST.

4. ~~(C)~~ ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, SOURCE A ADMITTED THAT THE SUBJECT OF APPOINTING A FOURTH PERSON AS PRESIDENT HAD BEEN DEBATED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT OAS AMBASSADOR ALEJANDRO ORFILA WAS ONE OF SEVERAL POSSIBLE CANDIDATES, BUT ADDED THAT HE DOUBTED THAT SUCH AN ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE WOULD TAKE PLACE "ANY TIME SOON." HE THEN CAUTIONED THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO GIVE TOO

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MUCH WEIGHT TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE DISSENSION WITHIN THE ARMY. WHILE THERE ARE HONEST DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON SPECIFIC ISSUES (E.G. LABOR POLICY), SOURCE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE ARMY WOULD CLOSE RANKS SOLIDLY BEHIND PRESIDENT VIDELA IF A SERIOUS MOVE SHOULD BE ATTEMPTED TO OUST HIM OR REDUCE HIS POWER.

COMMENT: ~~(C/NINTEL/NOFORN)~~ THAT TWO SOURCES SHOULD MENTION ON THE SAME DAY GOA PLANS TO INVITE HIGH LEVEL US VISITORS IS PROBABLY MORE THAN COINCIDENTAL. THE LACK OF SPECIFICITY BY SOURCE B IS PROBABLY DUE TO HIS RELATIVELY REMOTE LOCATION ON THE ARMY STAFF. SOURCE A, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS DAILY ACCESS TO THE PRESIDENT AND COULD HAVE BEEN USING [redacted] CHANNEL AS A TRIAL BALLOON. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT SOURCE A SHOULD ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE OPPOSITION TO VIDELA. DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE IS A HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL MILITARY OFFICER, HE IS AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE VIDELA TEAM AND PROBABLY WOULD BE CARRIED OUT OF OFFICE ALONG WITH THE TEAM. MEANWHILE, AMBASSADOR ORFILA MET WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA ON 7 FEB AND IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA AND SEVERAL CABINET OFFICERS ON THE 8TH.

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THIS MSG HAS BEEN COORD WITH EMBASSY.

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